

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00174 111151Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0175

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0174

CAIRO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR OTRA OVIP QA US

SUBJECT : SECRETARY'S REPORTED INTENTION TO VISIT GULF

REF: DOHA 167, ABU DHABI 306, JERUSALEM 185

1. ALTHOUGH AMIR OF QATAR DID NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK ABOUT REPORTED INTENTION OF SECRETARY TO VISIT GULF STATES DURING OUR MEETING FEB 11, HE DID MAKE PARTICULAR POINT OF URGING THAT HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIALS SHOULD VISIT GULF FOR FIRSTHAND IMPRESSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS. AMIR SAID THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED CLOSELY US EXPRESSIONS RE ITS INTEREST IN AND IMPORTANCE OF GULF, AND HE HAD APPRECIATED OUR FOLLOWUP IN ESTABLISHING FULL FLEDGED EMBASSIES WITH RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IN QATAR AND OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES. HOWEVER, THE AMIR OBSERVED THAT IN RECENT WEEKS US INTEREST IN GULF APPEARS TO HAVE MANIFESTED ITSELF IN THREATS OF INTERVENTION, NAVAL MANEUVERS, AND SEEKING OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN AREA. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE REMARKED, THIS KIND OF ATTENTION NOT DESIRED. HE IMPLIED STRONGLY THAT HIGH-LEVEL VISIT COULD DISPEL RECENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF US POLICY IN AREA, AND ENHANCE US IMAGE.

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2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION LATER ON FEB 11, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, WHO IS AMIR'S SON, ASKED ME DIRECTLY ABOUT REPORTS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GULF STATES. I REPLIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE PROVIDED. ABDUL AZIZ ECHOED AMIR'S COMMENTS, EMPHASIZING THAT A VISIT BY SECRETARY WOULD DISPEL APPREHENSIONS ABOUT HIS RECENT STATEMENTS RE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN GULF.

3. COMMENT: QATARIS ALSO OBVIOUSLY WISHFULLY THINKING ABOUT A VISIT FROM SECRETARY. I HOPE THAT ANY PLANNING THAT IS BEING DONE ON THIS SUBJECT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THAT ONCE SECRETARY VENTURES INTO THIS AREA, IF HE DOES NOT RPT NOT AT LEAST TOUCH DOWN IN EACH OF THESE SENSITIVE AND PRESTIGE CONSCIOUS STATES, THOSE WHICH DO NOT MAKE ITINERARY WILL HAVE NOSES BADLY OUT OF JOINT WITH PEJORATIVE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS.
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